A Brief

RELATION

OF THE

Surprizing ſeveral *ENGLISH* Merchants Goods, by *DVTCH* Men of Warre, their carrying them into *Zealand*, and there condemning them for Prize, upon no other ſcore or account, but that they were *Engliſh Mens*.

By *Edward Adams* of *London*, Merchant.

Hor. Ep. lib. 1.

Per mare, pauperiem fugiens, per ſaxa, per ignes,
Impiger extremos currit Mercator ad Indos.

LONDON.

Printed in the year, 1664.

BRITISH MUSEUM

To the Courteous *Engliſh* Reader.

Kind Country Man,

IN the late ſcribling age, having caſt my eye upon ſeveral Books, Pamphlets, or what elſe they might be called, (things in Print) and conſidering the Contents, I have often thought the Authors could have no other ground or deſign for expoſing them to publick view, but a ſtrong deſire to be ſeen in Print. Believe me, I am not troubled with any ſuch ambitious Itch: No, 'tis ill luck preſſes me to the Print, to make relation of my friends and own miſhap; which may be eſteemed the greater, in that it fell in a time when I and all our Engliſh *World were joval and pleaſant, in that merry moneth of* May *wherein his ſacred Majeſty returned to his Kingdoms, and great part of it on the day (when my ſelf and many thouſands more were attending on his Princely train) before his return to his Royal Palace of* White-Hall, *viz.* 28. Maii 1660. *Expect not from me any neat, polite diſcourſe, (for I am as bad a Poliſher, as a Polititian.) I ſhall only preſent thee with a bare relation of matter of fact, and my deſign of making it publick, is two fold, reſpecting thee, that by what thou ſeeſt to have happned to my friends and me, thou mayſt be admoniſhed to be very cautious and wary how thou haſt to doe in any deſign of Trade and Commerce, where the* Dutch *have any pretence of Concern or Intereſt, and* bonum eſt fugienda aſpicere alieno in malo, *And my ſelf, to beg the benefit and help of thy good Counſel for my future demeanor, whether I ſhall be farther active, and if ſo, how to proceed; or meerly paſſive, ſitting quietly ſtill, and bewailing the latter loſs with the former; for I have been at a very great (it may ſeem incredible) expence in* Zealand, Holland, *and ſome here, in ſeeking reſtitution of (or ſatisfaction for) our unjuſtly ſurprized and detained Goods. I ſaid I would preſent thee with a relation of matter of fact.* Know therefore,

That having done ſome ſervice to the King of *Portugal*, my Partner *Abraham Jacob*, an Engliſh Merchant reſident in *Lisboa*, in the latter end of the year 1658. procured a licence for ſending a Ship to the *Brazil*, in the Interval of fleets, (for by our Articles with that Crown, *Engliſh* ſhips, or ſhips fraighted by *Engliſh* men, may go in company of their *Portuguez* fleet to *Brazil*, and freely trade there) and by reaſon of the warre with *Spain* no *Engliſh* Ship of conſiderable burthen arriving in the Harbour of *Lisboa* that would embrace a fraight for *Brazil*, he was forced to make uſe of a *French* ſhip (not out of choice or kindneſs to that Nation, to give *French men* imployment; but meerly in abſence of *Engliſh* men) that accidently put in there, and wanted a fraight, One of thirty four Guns: this Ship was hired by the ſaid *Abraham Jacob*, and in the beginning of the year 1659 diſpatched away for the *Rio de Janeiro* in *Brazil*, with a very conſiderable Cargazon of Goods from himſelf, beſides what was laden by ſeveral other *Engliſh* Merchants (and ſome by *Portugueſſes*) reſiding in *Lisboa*.

This Ship belonged to St. *Mallo*, was called the *Golden Sun*, commanded by one *Nicholas le Breton du Pre*, & returning for the Port of *Lisboa*, the place of her diſcharge, laden with Sugars, Hides, *Brazil* wood *&c.* on the two & twenty day of *May*, 1660. near the Rock of *Lisboa*, was met by four *Fluſhing* men of warre commanded by *Touſain le Sage*, *Philip Ros*, *Albert Janſon*, and *Mattyas Quarts*, who haled her, & were informed ſhe was a *French* Ship belonging to St. *Malo*; nevertheleſſe they commanded the Captain out of her, who knowing them to be *Dutch* men of warre (and though he could have made conſiderable reſiſtance, yet) yielded, without making any the leaſt oppoſition, not doubting but that they would have ſoon cleared and releaſed him, becauſe that by the Treaty of *Marine* concluded but a few years before between the *French* King, and the *States General* of the United Provinces of the *Netherlands*, it was provided for and agreed on, that a free Ship made free Goods, and that any *French* Ship might freely Trade, and carry into any Port or Country in amity with the Crown of *France*, (though the inhabitants thereof ſhould be in open Hoſtility and Warre with the *States* of the *Netherlands*) any (and all manner of) Goods and Merchandizes, not onely ſuch as belonged to Nations and Perſons in amity and confederation with the ſaid *States*, but alſo the proper Goods, and Mer-

chandizes

chandizes of those people that were in Hostility and Warre with them, as aforesaid. But the Commanders of the Men of Warre, or Capers, (for so are they called in *Zealand*) thought not themselves obliged to the observance of any Treaty of Peace, or Law, or Justice; and therefore instead of permitting (as they ought to have done) the Ship to follow, and proceed in her Voyage, they set on shore many of the Ships Company in *Portugal*, and took possession of the Ship, and sent Her and her Commander accompanyed by one of the Men of Warre for *Flushing*, where arriving, the *French* Commander addresses himself to the *States* General, and demanded to be restored to the possession of the Ship and Goods, according to the Articles of *Marine* aforementioned, and reparation for the damage sustained, by being seized on and brought in thither, and was assisted therein by *Mounsieur de Thou*, then at the *Hague* Ambassador from the *French* King, who was the same Person that concluded the said Treaty of *Marine*; and a short time after I received advice and information from my Partner *Abraham Jacob*, and from *Robert Carre*, *Christopher Trenchard*, *William Peachey*, *Thomas Bostocke*, and *William Trussel*, *English* Merchants resident in *Lisbon*, of their several interests aboard the said Ship, and their Procurations or Letters of Attorney for looking after them, and procuring satisfaction on their behalf; whereupon I humbly represented their case to his most Sacred Majesty our Soveraign, who was graciously pleased immediately to send his Letters to the *States* of *Zealand*, requiring and pressing them to cause a restitution to be made of such part of the Ships lading as belonged to his Subjects aforenamed, and his Majesty used an expression enough not only to have won upon, but to have commanded any ingenuous natures; *For*, he said, *he would look upon such a restitution, as an Action demonstrating their willingnesse of holding amity and confederacy with him*: This Letter was dated 5th. of *July* 1660. and a few dayes after I delivered it to the *States* of *Zealand*, who were at that time assembled at *Midleburg*. They seemed to be very glad to receive a Letter from his Majesty of *Great Britain*, being the first they ever had from him, (at least since his happy Return to his Kingdoms.) But refused to return answer, at least by me, telling me, it was not their custome to Write to any Prince without the Order of the *States Generall*; or at least first making them accquainted there-

therewith. But their reſolution was recorded, of which they ordered me a Copie, the Tranſlation whereof is as followeth.

Extract out of the notes or reſolutions of the Honourable States *of* Zealand. *The* 2d. *of* Auguſt 1660.

BY which being deliberated upon the Contents of a Letter from the Kings Majeſty of *Great Britaine*, writ in favour of ſome Merchants of *London*, who pretend that ſeveral Merchandizes laden for their particular Accounts aboard the *Golden Sun*, whereof was Maſter *Nicholas le Breton*, and taken at Sea by private Commiſſions of this Province and brought to *Fluſhing*, Is reſolved that the aforeſaid Owners or Intereſſed ſhall addreſſe themſelves to the Lords of the Court of Admiralty reſiding here, with full aſſurance, That in this cauſe of reclaiming and following of their Goods, they ſhall receive all poſſible expedition and juſt Judgement.

Agreeth with the above mentioned notes or reſolutions.

Peter de Huybert.

This Anſwer or reſolution was an invitation or introduction to a Law-Suit, which I was very much averſe from entring into, well knowing what bad ſucceſs, ſome of our Country men had had by ſuch like proceeding in *Zealand*, neither could I obtain a reſolution, or Order, that in caſe of making due proof of the Propertie, I ſhould have the *Engliſh* Intereſt cleared and reſtored to me. But ſeveral Merchants and other Perſons, as well Natives as others reſiding in *Zealand*, men that were not concerned with the Capers, but rather abhorrers of their proceedings, (and ſome ſuch are there, though many are intereſſed with them) with whom I happened to have diſcourſe, underſtanding my caſe, were of opinion that would conſequently follow; and the rather becauſe his Majeſtie of *Great Brittaine* appeared in the buſineſs, and the Goods being then *in eſſe*, and intire, therefore they incouraged me to proceed according to the *States* anſwer or reſolution; however I was reſolved firſt to adviſe with my friends in *England*, and being in my return, a paſſenger with me in the Packet Boat, one *Vanderſteen* a Native of *Zealand*, but had a pretence to ſome Lands

Lands in *Ireland*, of his own accord (hearing my name) and knowing ſomewhat of my buſineſſe in *Zealand*, told me undoubtedly I ſhould have good ſucceſſe therein, for that the States of *Zealand* in a Letter they had written in his behalf to his Majeſty of *England*, took notice thereof; That part whereof that concerned me, I got copy of, and tranſlated is as followeth.

The Lords States of *Zealand* have (upon the recommendation of his Majeſtie of great *Britain*) very earneſtly recommended the cauſe of *Edward Adams*, *Abraham Jacob*, *Robert Carre*, and other Merchants, to the Lords of the Admiralty in *Zealand* reſiding at *Middleburg*, That to the ſaid Cauſe ſhould be given a ſhort and prompt expedition of Juſtice, with the which the intereſſed friends ſhall be aſſured of due ſatisfaction, as in Juſtice and Equity ſhall be found to be due: Done in the preſence of *John Ed. Maſy. Auguſt 1660 new Stile.*

This and the Reſolution alſo proved in the End but a decoy and deluſion, to entice and drill us into further Miſchief and inconvenience, for the manner of the *Zealanders*, is to get what they can into their power, and then ſeek and caſt about for arguments and ſpecious pretences to palliate the detaining it, and ſeldom or never do they part with any thing though ever ſo unjuſtly taken unleſſe compelled thereto.

Upon conference and adviſing with friends here in *England*, 'twas thought fit we ſhould Proſecute our Claimes in the Admiralty of *Zealand*, according to the States direction, and chiefely for this reaſon, That we could not have any great cauſe of complaint, or make out an aggrievance whereupon to beg relief from his ſacred Majeſty our gratious Soveraign, till we were denyed Juſtice there, it not being known, but that they would decree to us our Goods with damages; and withal being informed, that the Lords of the Admiralty could if they pleaſed in ſhort time bring the cauſe to ſentence, their cuſtome being to ſit in Court 3. days in a week, I therefore gave order for proceeding with a Claime before them, in the names of my ſeveral friends intereſſed, And for proof of their property did referre to the Evidence in the poſſeſſion of the Capers, as the Commanders Book, the Bills of lading, Invoices and Letters of Advice, of which they had ſecond and third Via's alſo, and my friends, as yet, none at all,

for

for it happen'd that a few days after, *viz.* on the 27. or 28. *May* old ſtile, the three remaining Capers, or Men of War, near the place where the 4. ſurpriz'd the *Golden-Sun*, met with the ſhip *Experience* of *London*, Commanded by one *John Kingſman*, coming from the Port of *Babia* in *Brazil*, whom they alſo ſurprized, (aboard which ſhip my friends aforenamed had Goods likewiſe to the value of 1200 *l. ſter.* and upwards, and in her company took 2. *Portugueſe* Veſſells that came from the *Rio de Janeiro* (the ſame Port whence the *Golden Sun* was laden) and in them 2d. and 3d. avizo's of what had been laden for account of each particular perſon reſpectively aboard the ſaid ſhip, Which (by command of the Lords of the Admiralty) being brought before them into Court, there appeared there were conſigned unto them aboard the ſaid ſhip for their own accompts 271. Cheſts and 11. Fechos Sugars, all (except ſome few) whites, ([redacted]) worth 5000 *l. ſter.* which was afterward confirmed, and made out by ſuch like Evidence which came to my friends own hands from *Brazill*.

When I began to follow my Claim, I ſoon found the Adverſe parties that appeared againſt me were very great and powerfull perſons in *Zealand*, *viz.* (beſides the Commanders of the Men of War, who had alliance ſtrong enough there) the whole *Weſt-India* Company of the *Netherlands*, as Granters of the Commiſſions, *Everard Gyſelinck* who was at the ſame time Burgo Maſter for *Fluſhing*, and conſequently one of the States of *Zealand*) *Jacob Van Hoorne*, ——— *Everſon* of *Fluſhing*, and ſeveral other conſiderable perſons as Owners & ſetters out of the men of War; And the Capers of *Fluſhing* are eſteemed men of ſuch deſperate inclinations, and ſo impatient of being demanded to give account of, or reſtore ought they have any way got into their power, that hardly could I get any One to follow in my abſence my Claime againſt them.

And there was a whiſpering of a ſuſpition went up and down the world, as well in *Zealand* as other parts, That the Lords of the Admiralty themſelves were concerned (as well as other great men of that Country) in ſetting out men of War, Whether they are ſo concern'd or not, I will not ſay; My charity is ſuch, as rather to believe the Negative. But they ſeemed to be pretty

ſtrongly

ſtrongly allyed to our Adverſaries (if not by conſanguinity or affinity) in affection, That whatſoever they moved for, was granted, though ever ſo equitably, rationally and forcibly impugned by our Advocate. Take one Example among others: (long before they gave ſentence) By vertue of a Joynt Procuration I I proceeded joyntly 2. or 3. Moneths in one claime, Then the Capers and other our Adverſaries move for a ſeparation of cauſes, or claimes, for each man to claim a part, which was a meer dilatory deſign to increaſe and multiply Expenſes, thereby to deterre thoſe whoſe intereſt was ſmall from looking after it, becauſe the remedy might prove worſe then the diſeaſe, the charge for following the claime of one Cheſt being as great as for one hundred. Our Advocate pleaded the Motion was unreaſonable, urging there was in the claimes no difference of caſe; That the perſons claiming were all *Engliſh* men, all reſiding in one place, the Goods they claimed only ſuch as appeared to be conſigned to them for their own account, that they were laden in one Port, in one ſhip, and conſigned to one Place. And added, that 'twas the part of Judges to abbreviate and contract (not multiply) ſuits; withall remembred to them, that the States in their reſolution had promiſed Expedition, And therefore prayed the Lords of the Admiralty not to grant the Motion; But notwithſtanding they did: not declaring in this, (as in no other point) the ground for their Decree, which they ſay is their cuſtome, reſerving that to themſelves, *Stat pro ratione voluntas.* I put it to my Advocate, and others reſiding in *Midleburg*, to deal plainly with me; in telling me in their Opinions what ground or cauſe our Adverſaries could have for making, or the Judges for granting the Motion? who ingeniouſly confeſſed they knew none, but what I have already ſet down; a deſign to deterre thoſe whoſe intereſt was ſmall from making their claim, fearing the remedy to be worſe then the diſeaſe. And indeed that deſign was gratifyed with ſucceſs, for the expenſive and dilatory proceſs conſumed more then the value of ſome mens ſugars claimed, though ſentence had been pronounced in their favour, yet could I not avoid proceeding in ſuch a claime, for I let it lye, and went on with the moſt conſiderable, but our Adverſaries brought it on, and moved that I ſhould proceed therein, or they be diſmiſſed therefrom. I then moved the Court for Order for one

cauſe

Ea

cauſe to be proceeded with, (which they ſhould appoint) offering, that according to the ſucceſſe of it all the reſt ſhould be concluded, and to this the Fiſcal conſented, (The Fiſcal is a perſon concerned in all claimes of this nature, he proceedes *Ex Officio*, Appears in right of the Province, and his office is ſomewhat like to that of his Majeſties Atturney General in *England*) But the Capers refuſed to joyn with him; Neither would the Lords of the Admiralty enjoyn them to comply, ſo that of One Cauſe they begat Six: And before I could proceed further I was forced for every cauſe to give ſecurity for the coſts, which muſt be done by a ſufficient Inhabitant of the Place.

The 12. *October* 1660. *St. n.* was appointed for a publick ſale of the whole Cargo of the Ship *Golden-Sun* at *Fluſhing* (the *French* Commanders 23. Cheſts excepted) where I was preſent, and addreſſed my ſelf to the Lords of the Admiralty, deſiring the Goods I claimed might be likewiſe exempted from the ſale, till the cauſes were determined. But they anſwered me, they ſhould be ſold with the reſt in *Uſum jus habentium*. Then I moved that the Contents and Quality might be noted and ſet down a part, which I confeſs they granted, and to that purpoſe ſent a Meſſenger with me to the Officers of the *Weſt India* Company; who had the management of the ſale. But they anſwer'd, 'twas not to be done, the Goods being mingled in Lots with others, ſo they made ſale of them before my face (a comfortable ſpectacle) and promiſcuouſly ſet down the Contents with other goods, as not doubting of a ſentence in their favour, or dreading ever to be called to accompt for them.

By ſome little diſcourſe I had with our Adverſaries and others of that Country, I found there ſeemed to be put by them ſome difference between *Engliſh* men, living in *England*, and thoſe reſiding beyond Sea, eſpecially in *Portugal*, though they have liberty to make ſuch reſidence only by vertue of Articles of peace made between the Crownes of *England* and *Portugal*. To remove any ſuch obſtacle, ſhould it be offered, and appear to be valid, I procured a ſecond Letter from his Majeſty, wherein (being informed by ſome perſons of Honour, who in the time of their Exile, came to have knowledge of the perſons intereſſed, That they were not only loyal ſubjects, but to have ſincere affections to his Majeſties ſervice) He was graciouſly pleaſed to declare that

that Edward *Adams*, *Abraham Jacob*, *Robert Carre*, *Chriſtopher Trenchard*, *William Peachey*, *Thomas Boſtock*, and *Will. Truſſel*, were not only his ſubjects, but that he alſo lookt upon them meriting his protection, as well as any others ſoever of like quality inhabiting any part of his Dominions. This Letter was not preſently delivered, but was thought fit to be reſerved for ſome more opportune time, which was judged to be when the cauſes were ready for ſentence, and then it was preſented, but to ſmall effect, for they ſlighted it; And the Capers ſtuck not publickly to ſay, That the Secretaries framed Letters, and his Majeſty ſigned them without ever reading or knowing what they contained. The *French* Commander at the ſame time went on with his claim, demanding his ſhip, the Fraight, & 23. Cheſts of Sugars in particular, & the whole Cargo in general according to the Articles of Peace.

The Cargo according to the Commanders book, was 1100. Cheſts and Fecho's of Sugar, 1000. Hides, 4000 *l.* of *Vigonia* Wool, ſome Boxes of Balſome, a parcel of *Jacaranda* Wood, Whale fins, and ſome Tobacco.

Upon his preſſing whereof, the Lords of the Admiraltie asked him one day in Court, what he would do with the Cargo ſhould it be reſtored him? To which he made anſwer, That he would carry and deliver it at the proper Port of his Diſcharge, according as he ſtood obliged by Charter party and Bills of lading, at which the Lords ſmiled, As if it were a ridiculous thing for them to be thought obliged (by any tie whatſoever) to give ſentence for the Capers to part with a good Booty once got into their poſſeſſion.

During the tranſaction of theſe affaires, the States of the *United Provinces* ſent their Ambaſſadors to the Court of *France* to renew their Alliance with the *French* King, who (being informed from his Ambaſſador at the *Hague* of their non-complyance with the former Articles) refuſed to treat with them, till there were juſtice done his ſubjects according to the Articles of *Marine*, which was concluded at the deſire of the States themſelves. Whereupon the Ambaſſadors writ to the States deſiring the cauſe of *Le Breton* may be judged, who thereupon Order the Lords of the Admiralty of *Zealand* ſo to do; But they notwithſtanding for a while deferred it, till new complaints were made,

then they give ſentence, *viz.* on the 24. *September* 1661. *ſtilo novo.* Decreeing to the *French* Commander his Ship, Aparrel, Furniture, &c. Fraight, and 23. Cheſts of Sugars which belonged to him and Company, with 2000. Gilders Damages. And the ſame day condemned the Engliſh mens (ſome whereof were Fraighters of the ſhip) goods for prize.

The *French* man not contented with his ſentence, finding the ſum ordered for damages to be too little, demands further reparation in matter of damage: which by means of the *French* Ambaſſador at the *Hague*, is made known to the *French* King, who commanded *Monſieur de Lionn* a Miniſter of State in *France*, to ſignifie to the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors, that in caſe of non ſatisfaction for *Le Bretons* ſhip, he would grant Letters of Repriſal. Whereupon they again writ to the States General touching that particular; Who order the cauſe to be brought before the Judges apointed in caſe of appeal at the *Hague*, and a review thereof without charge to him, and to that end diſpatch their Meſſengers into *Zealand*, where the States had a meeting extraordinary about it, who give for anſwer, that they cannot conſent to a review, becauſe the *Fatalia* were paſt (which are 4. Months after the ſentence pronounced, within which time the review ought to be deſired.) But this being upon a Point extraordinary, to prevent Letters of repriſal, a ſecond Meſſenger was diſpatcht, who return'd with a Better anſwer, And upon the review is decreed to the *French* Commander 12000. Gilders more for damage, over and above the former 2000.

The *French* Commander recovered his Fraight according to Bills of lading which belonged to us the Fraighters, which was more then was due to them by Charter party by 910 *l.* Flemiſh, ſo that with what he had formerly received from us, and was diſburſed for his account, He was indebted to us 1440 *l.* Flemiſh, for which (he refuſing to accompt with us) we deſired we might make an Embargo, or Arreſt in the hands of thoſe who were appoynted to pay him money, and in this requeſt we hoped to ſucceed (becauſe it might be a mean for them to keep ſomething in their hand, which was a thing they love to do, as being in that kind naturally tenacious;) But in this neither were we prevailing, for they were reſolved not to gratifie the *Engliſh* in any motion, or

at

at leaſt durſt do nothing againſt the *French*, they telling us they could not permit one ſtranger to ſue another, ſo the *French* man marched off with flying colours, carrying all away with him, as well ſome of our as his own money. And the *Engliſh* remain'd *forlorn*. And by what hath been here related, which is nothing but undeniable truth, it plainly appears we are truly unfortunate *Engliſh* Merchants.

Our Goods were condemned as Prize, but as I have already ſaid, they tell us not wherefore; they never declaring the cauſe or ground of their ſentence, reſerving that in their own breaſt; ſo that we are ignorant where the Gulf lay that devoured, or the Rock that ſplit us: But by what we gathered by common diſcourſe with perſons in *Zealand*, and ſome Occurrences, we may gueſs it to be, becauſe the perſons claiming were for the moſt part reſident in *Portugal*; for an *Engliſh* man that was paſſenger upon an *Engliſh* ſhip which they had taken comming from *Brazil* had Goods (being of no great value) reſtored him. And this is founded upon an Order or Edict made for their own people that none of them living in *Portugal* ſhall trade to *Brazil* without their licence, or if they do their goods being taken in company of *Portugueſſes* ſhall run the like fate with them, and this was made for prevention of their Subjects colouring *Portuguez* Goods: (tis evident we colour'd no *Portuguez* Goods, claiming only what was conſigned for our own account, and this by evidence of their own producing, and all was under 300. of 1100. Cheſts and Echo's which the ſhip brought.) And ſay they, perſons living in any part ought not to enjoy two Capacities or Priviledges. To that we gave ſatisfactory anſwer, (Beſides what his ſacred Majeſty hath been pleaſed to write on our behalf) That we enjoyed no Priviledge the *Portugueſſes* did, but reſided in *Portugal* by vertue of the Articles of peace concluded between the Crowns of *England* and *Portugal*, and for ſuch were own'd and certifyed by his Majeſties Conſull. If they will have paſs for Curant, that what Sanctions and Edicts are made by them for regulating their own people, muſt be obliging to the Subjects of other Princes, 'tis right *Hogan Mogan*; But the plain *Engliſh* of it is, That the King of Great *Britaine*, *France* and *Ireland*, muſt not treat of or conclude peace with a Forraign Prince, or provide for

the increase of Trade and priviledges of his own subjects without asking the *States* of *Holland* leave.

I humbly represented our case to his sacred Majesty and his most Honourable Privie Council, makeing a Summarie relation of what had passed, which his Majesty & their Lordships taking into their consideration, did Order, that the Commissioners who are to treat with the *Dutch* Ambassadors, do insist upon our satisfaction, in like manner as is done in claims of any other of his Majesties Subjects.

I also represented our aggrievance to the Honourable Committee of Parliament appointed to consider of the Trade of the Nation, where I made out our losses sustained by the surprizall of the Shipps *Golden Sun*, *Experience* aforemention'd, (and two *English* Shipps more taken by the *Dutch* a little after, called the *Falcon*, and St. *John Baptist*) to amount unto 8000*l. ster.* But (like a bad accomptant,) I omitted to set down the interest, which for 4. years at 6. *per Cent.* comes to 1920*l.* Besides which I have in the tedious vexatious suits expended 780*l.* 12*s*, 3*d. Flemish*, besides what is to be set down for my friends paines who assisted in the solicitation, and I have endeavoured all good husbandry, having been sometime thought to be too penurious. And now may be seen the effect of the full assurance of expedition promised us, *viz.* a Suit of 14. moneths, (which if I had pleased might have been 14. yeurs, I could have procured consent of parties,) and for the just judgment we should receive, our Goods condemned for Prize, but upon what score, *Subintelligitur*. The *French* mans Ship which, by the Universal custome & consent (if not Law) of Nations (to say nothing of their particular Obligation) ought to have made free Goods, with 23. Chests of Sugar granted free, with 1400. *Gilders* for Dammages.

Thus Courteous Reader, I have done with my sad tedious story, and crave thy pardon for exercising thy Patience so long therewith, begging as formerly the benefit of thy Counsel. But before I take my leave I must speak one word in vindication of my profession (at least of my own particular) from an aspertion which seems to be cast upon it. There is a rumor flies up and down the world, that in this present conjuncture of affairs, the Merchants are great incendiaries to a Warre with the *Dutch*, and if there happen one, 'twill be called the *Merchants Warre*, which

I ſuppoſe is a great miſtake; for to me it ſeems not rational for any intelligent Merchants to be forward to that War, the maine diſpute and deciſion whereof muſt be argued at Sea, the place where he is moſt concerned, and to the inconveniences and hazards attending ſuch a War the Merchant of all other perſons is moſt obnoxious. If any ſuch Merchants there be, that are ſo Warlike, and promiſe to themſelves great gain by Trading in troubled waters; I do declare my ſelf to be none of them, I do confeſſe I am for ſatisfaction for the unreaſonable uſage and injuries done my friends, and me: nay I have been, and am very earneſt and zealous for it, I ſay I am for the *Rem*, but *modum acquirendi* I wholly ſubmit to his Sacred Majeſty (whom God many years preſerve in peace) and his Great Council.

Farewell.

Edward Adams.

FINIS.